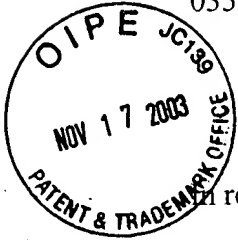


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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of:

HIDENORI TAKATA, et al.

Application No.: 09/853,684

Filed: May 14, 2001

For: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT)
APPARATUS, INFORMATION)
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, AND)
STORAGE MEDIUM STORING)
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT)
SOFTWARE :

Group Art Unit: 2122

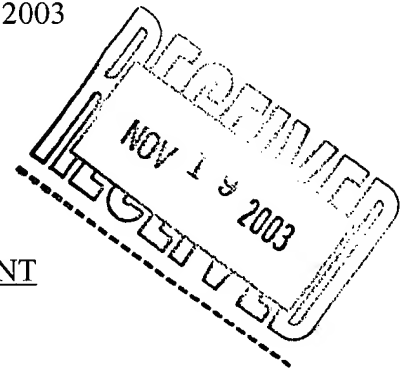
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NOV 18 2003

Technology Center 2100

November 14, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 5,943,650
- (2) U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0016921
- (3) U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0049716
- (4) Japan 02-810033
- (5) Japan 07-089305

Documents (2) and (3) above have a common inventor with, and are commonly assigned with, the subject application.

Document (4) is discussed in the specification commencing at page 1, line 14 and document (5) is discussed in the specification commencing at page 1, line 21. These documents might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given therein. An English-language abstract for document (5) is enclosed. Document (1) is believed to be an English-language counterpart of document (4).

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3).

Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

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